

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. in the 2nd floor Conference Room at the Town Offices. The Committee joined the Board of Selectmen meeting at 7:07 p.m. for an IT presentation then reconvened at 7:45 p.m. Present were: Chairman S. Jon Stumpf, Vice Chair Mary O'Donoghue, Linn Anderson, Paul Fortier, Margaret (Peggy) Kruse, Joanne Marden, Mark Merritt and Eugenie (Janie) Moffitt; also present was Finance Director Donna Walsh.

Warrant Articles

Using the "Annual Town Meeting 2013 Final Warrant Numbers, Board Recommendations" from Town Clerk's Office, updated April 2nd, the Committee discussed each Article that needed a FinCom recommendation as follows:

Article 3 – Salaries of Elected Officials: No changes from last year. On a motion by Ms. Kruse seconded by Mr. Fortier, the Committee voted to approve Article 3. The motion passed 8-0.

Article 4 – FY 2014 Budget: A brief discussion that even with some possible changes to Fire Department budget will result in a \$0.00 net impact. This Article will be discussed further on Monday with additional information.

Article 5 – FY 2014 Capital Projects Fund Appropriation: On a motion by Mr. Merritt seconded by Ms. O'Donoghue, the Committee voted to approve Article 5 for \$2,280,000. The motion passed 8-0.

Article 6 – Budget Transfers: Ms. Walsh will be proposing some budget transfers and discussed some thoughts on where to shift some monies to get through the end of the year. A recommendation will be made at Town Meeting.

Article 7 – Supplemental Budget Appropriations: A recommendation will be made at Town Meeting. The snow and ice deficit for the current year will come from Free Cash.

Article 9 – Free Cash: For use in FY'14. On a motion by Mr. Merritt seconded by Ms. O'Donoghue, the Committee voted to approve Article 9 at \$0.00 from Free Cash and/or withdrawal at Town Meeting. The motion passed 8-0.

Article 10 – Unexpended Appropriations: none expected – report at Town Meeting.

Article 11-G – Rescinding of Bond Authorizations: 1. DPW trucks from last year (\$300K) and 2. Conservation Land, Fosters Pond (\$260K). On a motion by Ms. Kruse seconded by Mr. Fortier, the Committee voted to approve Article 11-G. The motion passed 8-0.

Article 13 – Unpaid Bills: none – report at Town Meeting.

Article 17 – Ballardvale Fire Station – Repair, Rehabilitation & Restoration: On a motion by Mr. Fortier seconded by Ms. O'Donoghue, the Committee voted to disapprove Article 17. The motion passed 8-0.

Warrant Articles (cont'd)

Article 18 – Doherty Middle School Site Improvements: Discussion to continue on Monday.

Article 22 – Monument – Deyermund Sports Complex: The type of sign and what material would be used was discussed. On a motion by Mr. Fortier seconded by Mr. Merritt, the Committee voted to approve Article 22 for \$25,000. The motion passed 5-3.

Article 23 – COLA Increase for Retirees: Looking for \$161,000 for FY'14 and amount would increase in subsequent years. There was much discussion about understanding all retirement benefits and taking caution not to overcommit funds. On a motion by Ms. Marden seconded by Mr. Fortier, the Committee voted to disapprove Article 23. The motion passed 7-1.

Article 24 – DPW Vehicles: On a motion by Mr. Merritt seconded by Ms. O'Donoghue, the Committee voted to approve Article 24 for \$150,000 from Free Cash. The motion passed 8-0.

Article 25 – Fire-Rescue Ambulance: On a motion by Mr. Fortier seconded by Mr. Merritt, the Committee voted to approve Article 25 for \$270,000 from Free Cash. The motion passed 8-0.

Article 28 – Town Building & Facility Maintenance: reduced to \$300,000. Discussion will continue on Monday with additional information.

Article 29 – Greater Lawrence Tech School HVAC Renovation: On a motion by Ms. O'Donoghue seconded by Mr. Merritt, the Committee voted to approve Article 29 for \$22,717. The motion passed 8-0.

Article 32 – AHS Tennis Courts Renovation: Will discuss on Monday with additional information from the schools.

Article 34 – Town Playground Replacements: may be withdrawn.

Article 35 – School Facility Space Needs Study: On a motion by Mr. Merritt seconded by Ms. Anderson, the Committee voted to approve Article 35 for \$225,000 from Free Cash. The motion passed 8-0.

Article 36 – School Building Maintenance & Renovation: Discussion will continue on Monday with additional information.

Article 37 – Annual Computer Workstation & Laptop Replacement Program: Much discussion about the IT presentation including purchasing laptops vs. leasing, maintenance agreements, School Department vs. Town computers, Cable Fund, and many other variables. On a motion by Mr. Merritt seconded by Ms. Anderson, the Committee voted to approve Article 37 for \$218,300. The motion passed 8-0.

Article 40 – Spring Grove Cemetery Maintenance: Interest is transferred from the Spring Grove Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund into the General Fund to provide additional funding for the cemetery.

Warrant Articles (cont'd)

On a motion by Mr. Merritt seconded by Ms. O'Donoghue, the Committee voted to approve Article 40 for \$6,000. The motion passed 8-0.

Article 48 – Parking Management Action Plan for the Downtown: To pay parking Consultants to make recommendations for improvement and create opportunities for additional revenues and reduced expenses. On a motion by Mr. Merritt seconded by Ms. O'Donoghue, the Committee voted to approve Article 48 for \$18,000. The motion passed 7-0-1.

Article 49 – Doherty Middle School/WWI Memorial Auditorium Renovations: withdrawn.

Article 53 – Reichhold Parcel I Acquisition – Conservation LAND Grant: there may be a possibility for an outside grant. Discussion will continue on Monday when more information is presented.

Article 54 – Reichhold Parcel I Acquisition & PARC Grant: \$550,000 being proposed from General Fund, non-exempt borrowing. Consider using exempt debt. Discussion will continue on Monday when more information is presented.

Article 60 – Streamgauging Station on Shawsheen River at Balmoral Street: Question about whether this is a safety issue. Need more information from Public Safety Officials. On a motion by Mr. Merritt seconded by Ms. Anderson, the Committee voted to disapprove Article 60. The motion passed 8-0.

Lastly, Ms. Walsh explained that there will be a Special Town Meeting within the 2nd night of the regular Town Meeting to discuss 2 Articles related to the Wood Trust Fund which has a \$1.3M current balance. Article 1 will transfer a sum of money (approximately half of the Fund) to the Youth Center project in order to complete the entire building. Article 2 will use the remainder of the Trust Fund to create the Elder Services Program Stabilization Fund to supplement the elder services operating budget. Interest only will be used and specified to go toward new programs and activities as approved by the Town Manager. There will be more explanation on these Articles on Monday night.

Next Meeting

Monday, April 8, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. Articles 4, 18, 28, 32, 36, 53, and 54 will be discussed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Documents: Annual Town Meeting 2013 Final Warrant Numbers, Board Recommendations from Town Clerk's Office, updated April 2nd

Respectfully Submitted,
Trudy Zakin
Recording Secretary